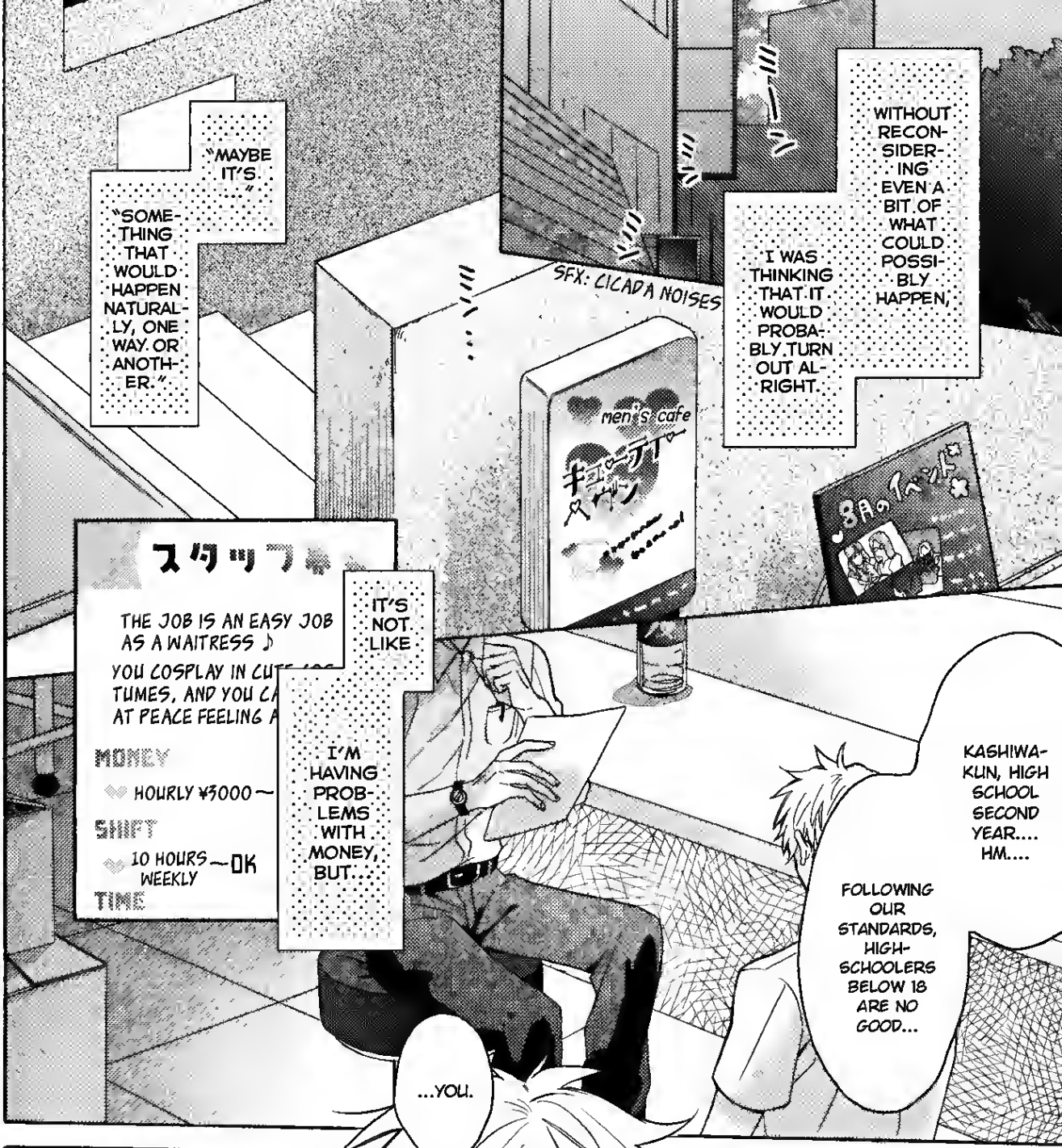
隠しごとは
What is your secret?
なんですか
Part 1


WITHOUT RECONSIDERING EVEN A BIT OF WHAT COULD POSSIBLY HAPPEN,
I WAS THINKING THAT IT WOULD PROBABLY TURN OUT ALRIGHT.
SFX: CICADA NOISES
"MAYBE IT'S..."
"SOMETHING THAT WOULD HAPPEN NATURALLY, ONE WAY OR ANOTHER."
men's cafe
スタッフ
THE JOB IS AN EASY JOB AS A WAITRESS ♪
MONEY
HOURLY ¥3000～
SHIFT
10 HOURS～WEEKLY
OK
TIME
IT'S NOT LIKE
I'M HAVING PROBLEMS WITH MONEY, BUT...
KASHIWA-KUN, HIGH SCHOOL SECOND YEAR.... HM....
FOLLOWING OUR STANDARDS, HIGH-SCHOOLERS BELOW 18 ARE NO GOOD...
...YOU.
DO YOU WANT TO DO THIS NO MATTER WHAT?
HUH, WELL....

Something about being above 18 years wasn't written anywhere though...
IF IT'S NO GOOD, THEN...
WELL~~ IF YOU GO SO FAR TO INSIST, THEN I GUESS I HAVE NO CHOICE~~
.....
IF YOU'RE ASKED BY A CUSTOMER ABOUT YOUR AGE, TELL THEM YOU'RE 18, OKAY?
...Wow.
...ABOUT THE CUSTOMERS...
YOU'RE JUST GOING TO COSPLAY A BIT, AND CHATTING LIKE YOU'RE HAVING FUN WITH THEM WILL BE ALRIGHT.
It's packed with large-sized frilly costumes...
IF YOU HAVE PROBLEMS WITH ANYTHING, YOU CAN ASK ME OR THE OTHER EMPLOYEES.
...That was accepted quickly, remarkably.
Well, I guess that's fine.
click

HUH? WHAT, WHAT?
COULD YOU BE A NEW-COMER?!
ICHIGO
I'M KASHIWA, I'LL BE WORKING HERE STARTING TOMOR-ROW.
KASHIWA WHAT-KUN?
IT'S MOTOKI.
THE FIRST MAID THAT I SAW WAS A GUY...
Well, just by that fact, it isn't really a big deal...
I SEE~
AH, BY THE WAY, I GO BY THE NAME "ICHIGO" HERE.
ICHIGO
MY REAL NAME IS SAEKI RYOUJI.
I LOOK FOR-WARD TO WORK-ING WITH YOU!
SO, I'LL BE GOING TO WORK, SEEYA!
peace
I REMEMBER HEARING THAT NAME BEFORE.
...

.....
I MEAN,
WAS THE STUDENT COUNCIL PRESIDENT IN OUR HIGH SCHOOL UNTIL LAST YEAR.
ACTUAL-LY, THE PERSON KNOWN AS SAEKI RYOUJI...
welcome home, master~
that's freakin' amaz-ing!
that he got found out...
So it isn't really bad
COOL!
EEH! WE GO TO THE SAME HIGH SCHOOL?!
I KNEW IT, ISN'T THIS JOB'S AGE LIMITS A BIT TOO VAGUE?
IT'S SURPRIS-ING...

IT'S SAEKI-SENPAI...
THAT JUMP'S ...
AMAZING.
Hey~ about those third years doing P.E. outside~
Saeki-senpai's high jump was really amazing!
Must be nice to sit by the window~
I mean, he's smart, athletic, and has good looks, isn't that weird?
And he's super nice, at that!
♡he's so cool!
WHAT'S WITH THAT TALK,
ISN'T THAT LIKE, REALLY BAD?!
.....
WHY IS THAT SORT OF PERSON WORKING PART-TIME AT SUCH A SHADY PLACE..?
EH?
WELL, I MEAN....

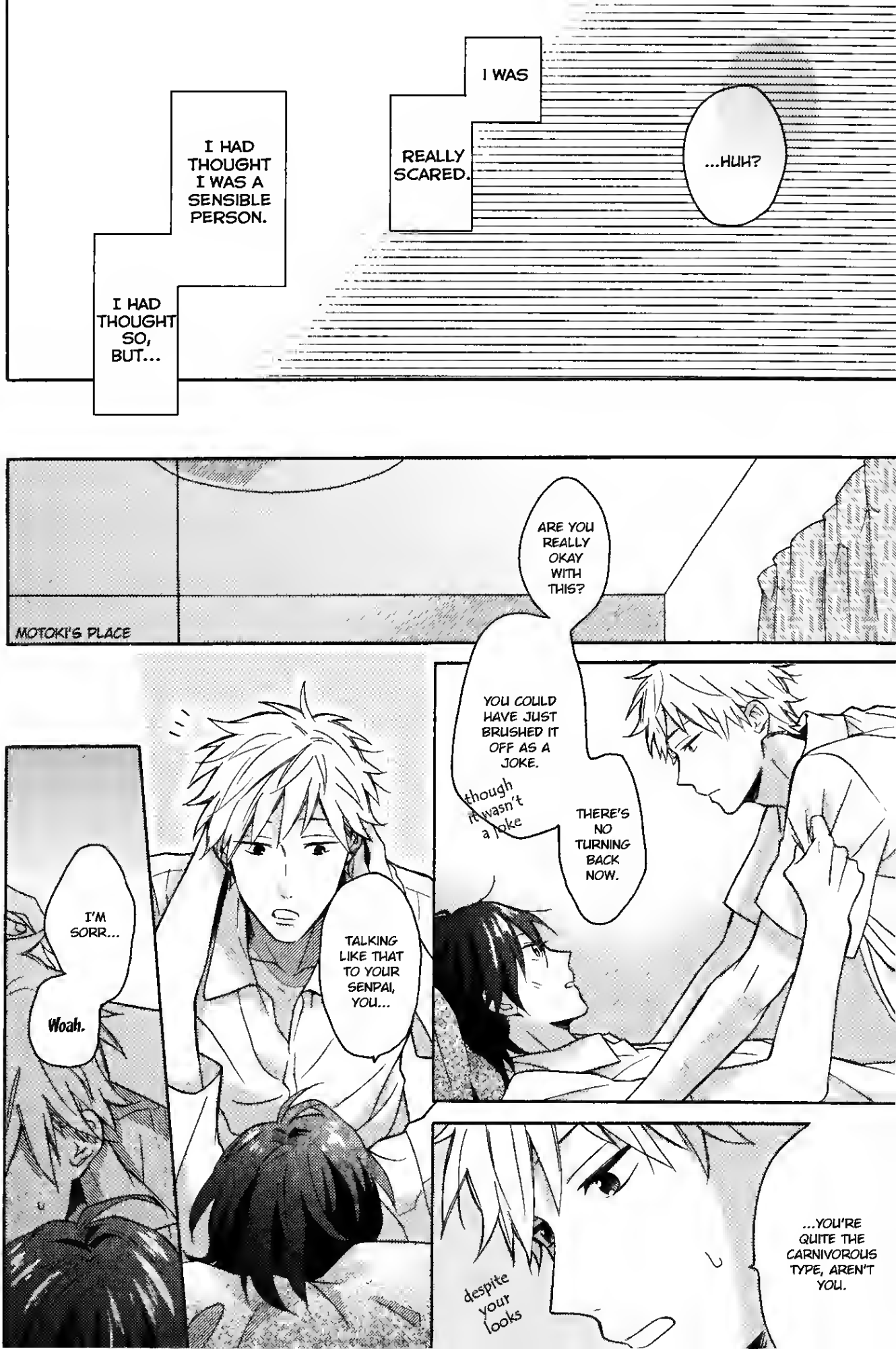
.....
I LIKE COSPLAYING, YOU KNOW~
ISN'T IT INTERESTING? COSPLAYING WHILE SERVING CUSTOMERS.
IT'S NOT REALLY SOMETHING THAT YOU CAN GET EXPERIENCE FROM, EITHER.
.....
DIDN'T YOU CHOOSE THE JOB BECAUSE YOU THOUGHT IT WAS INTERESTING?
BUT ISN'T MOTOKI THE SAME?
DOES IT GO LIKE THAT?
IT DOESN'T GO LIKE THAT?
it was easier than expected
IF I FAILED THE INTERVIEW THERE, I WAS THINKING OF APPLYING IN A HIGH-CLASS SUSHI SHOP OR SOMETHING...
NO. ANYWHERE WAS ALRIGHT FOR ME IF THE SALARY WAS GOOD.

AHA-HA!
YOU'RE A WEIRD-LY FUNNY FELLA.
I'M WEIRD, HUH?
DON'T THINK TOO MUCH ABOUT IT!
SURE...
smack
smack
OW...

Y-YOU...
Pfft.
tremble
tremble
...SENPAI?

.....
I CAN UN-DERSTAND IF YOU LIKE THAT SORT OF THING FROM THE START,
BUT EVEN PEOPLE WHO SAY THAT THEY'RE OKAY WITH WHEREVER DON'T USUALLY WANDER IN THAT PLACE.
NORMALLY, WOULDN'T YOU BE WEIRDED OUT BY STUFF LIKE CROSS-DRESSING?
HAVEN'T YOU THOUGHT LIKE THAT?

HM?
...DOES SENPAI...
I DON'T REALLY CARE ABOUT THOSE SORT OF THINGS.
DOES SENPAI LIKE GUYS?
...HOW ABOUT MOTOKI?
.... DUNNO.
I'VE BEEN WITH A GIRL BEFORE, THOUGH.
I HAVEN'T THOUGHT ABOUT BEING WITH A GUY.
WELL THEN
WANNA TRY IT OUT?


I WAS
REALLY SCARED.
...HUH?
I HAD THOUGHT I WAS A SENSIBLE PERSON.
I HAD THOUGHT SO, BUT...
MOTOKI'S PLACE
ARE YOU REALLY OKAY WITH THIS?
YOU COULD HAVE JUST BRUSHED IT OFF AS A JOKE.
though it wasn't a joke
THERE'S NO TURNING BACK NOW.
I'M SORR...
Woah.
TALKING LIKE THAT TO YOUR SENPAI, YOU...
despite your looks
...YOU'RE QUITE THE CARNIVOROUS TYPE, AREN'T YOU.

WHAT
ARE YOU DOING, ME?
I KIND OF LIKE THAT SORT OF THING.
IT'S OKAY.
pa-thump
pa-thump
...IT WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER IF I FELT SO.
Triple-A cup...
AH...
rustle
...HEY.
WERE YOU DISILLU-SIONED AFTER SEEING MY TRUE SELF?
Disillu-sioned...
EVEN THOUGH JUST A LITTLE WHILE AGO, HE WAS SOME-ONE WHO I THOUGHT WAS COMPLETELY OUT OF MY REACH...
HE'S THIS CLOSE TO ME RIGHT NOW.

FAR FROM BEING DISILLUSIONED... I JUST KNEW THAT I WAS COMPLETELY ALRIGHT WITH HAVING A MAN AS A PARTNER.

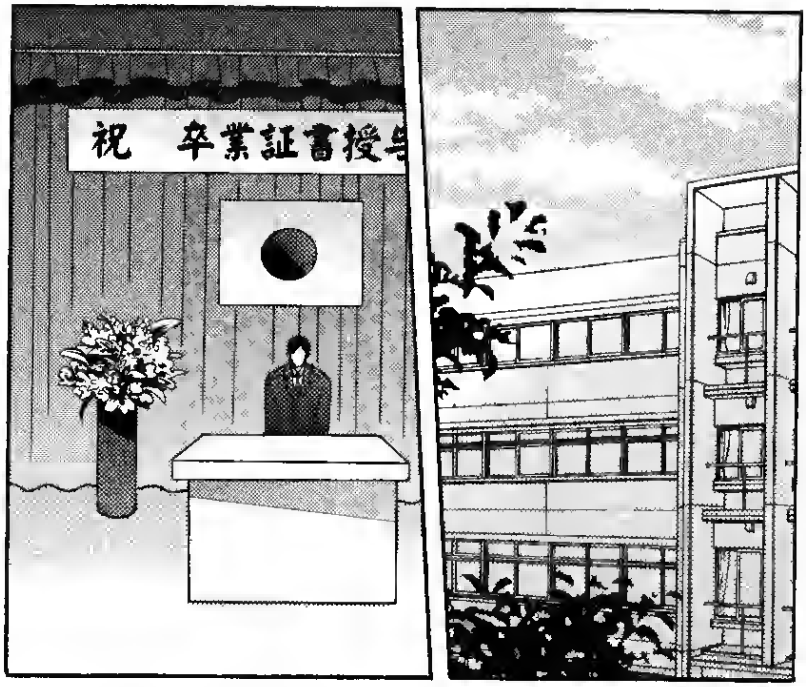
THAT'S... CERTAINLY TRUE.
.....
NO.
IF THEY KNEW, THEN I WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN THE STUDENT COUNCIL PRESIDENT.
ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THIS? I COULD SPREAD RUMORS TO EVERYONE ABOUT THIS YOU KNOW.
UWAH.
...IT WOULD BE, BUT...
THAT WOULD BE A really PROB-LEM.
IF MY INSTINCTS ARE RIGHT...
MOTOKI ISN'T THE KIND OF PERSON TO DO THAT.
...That's no fair.

YOU'RE STRAIGHT, BUT WHY DIDN'T YOU REJECT ME?
...MOTOKI, YOU...
OI
whether I prefer one or the other
I'm still confused
?
...I WONDER?
BECAUSE YOU'RE "OKAY WITH WHATEVER"?
NO...
It's different from that...
YOU JUST WANTED TO DO IT?
ERR...
I can't exactly deny that with 100% certainty...
I REALLY LIKE MOTOKI'S FACE.
THIS IS MY FIRST TIME BEING ABLE TO TALK TO SOMEONE FROM THE SAME SCHOOL LIKE THIS.
...ALSO, HONESTLY SPEAKING...
Face...
...WELL, THANK YOU.

The face, huh...
if so, then I also like senpai's well-featured face.
ESPE-CIALLY YOUR EYES.
AND ALSO...
THAT'S FINE ALREADY.
what is this... is this some kind of torture...?
sigh
...IS IT ALRIGHT IF I COME TO LIKE YOU?
DO YOU WANT TO TRY GOING OUT WITH ME?
WH...

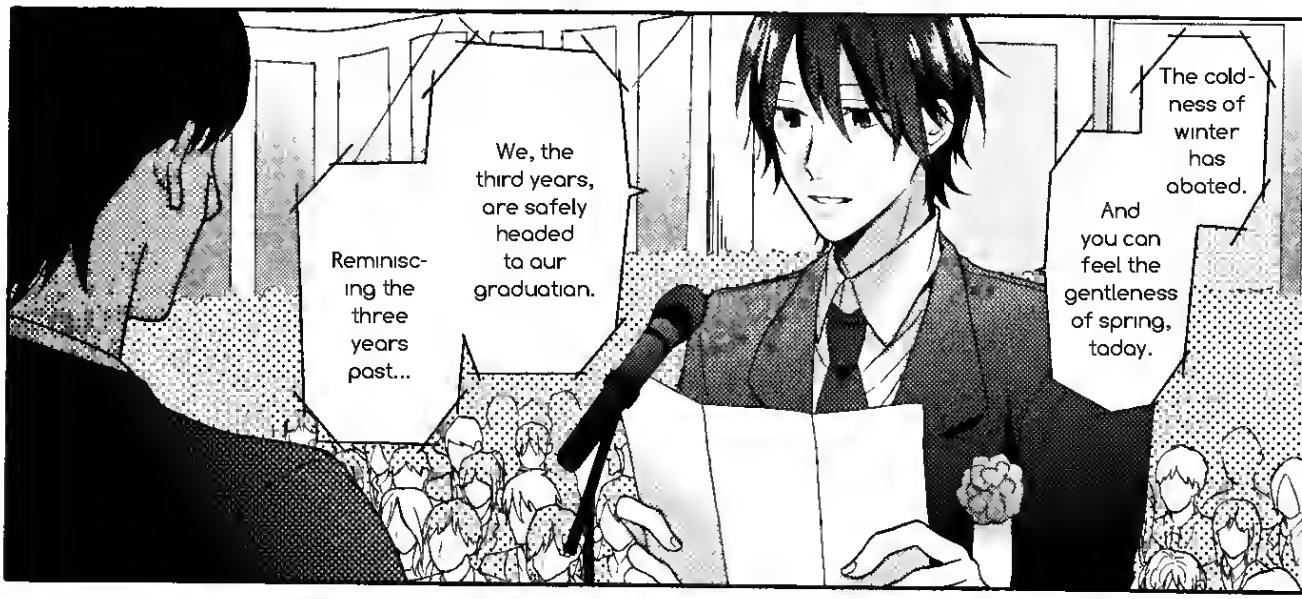
AH...
ERR
WHAT DID THIS PERSON JUST...
.....
WHAT DO YOU THINK...?
IF MOTOKI DOESN'T FEEL LIKE IT RIGHT NOW,
IT'LL BE FINE IF YOU'D COME TO LIKE ME EVENTUAL-LY...
IT'S...
I...
ALRIGHT WITH ME...

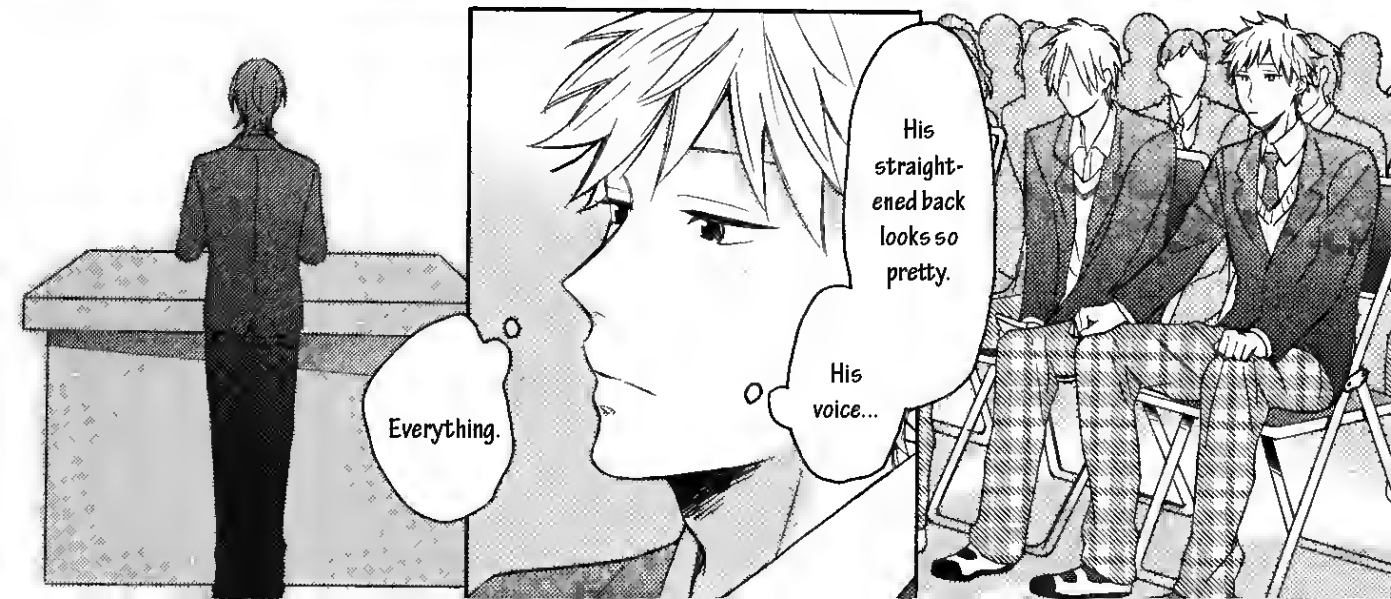
REALLY?
IT'S A YES?
I WONDER WHY I DIDN'T REFUSE HIM.
WELL, I'M SURE...
YA-
Y
THAT THIS RELATION-SHIP WON'T LAST THAT LONG, I THINK.
I TH...
I THIN...
I THINK...



SENPAI IS CUTE.

and I'm so easy

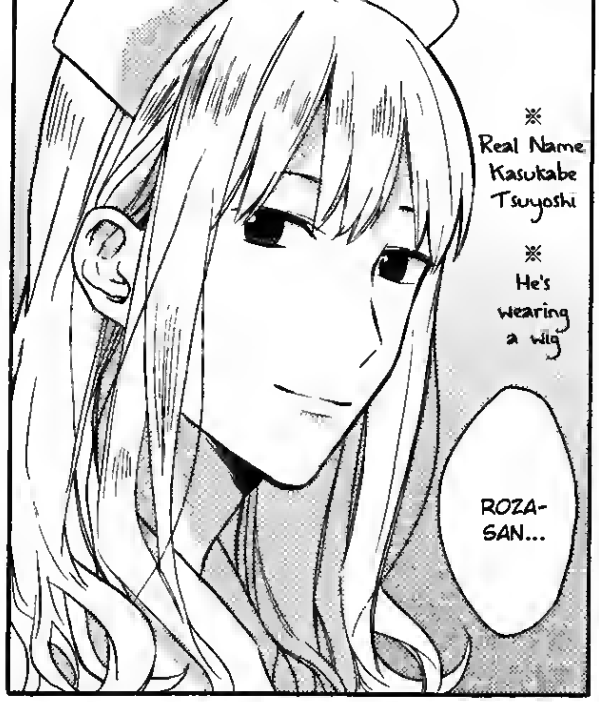

Reminisc-ing the three years past...
We, the third years, are safely headed to our graduation.
The cold-ness of winter has abated.
And you can feel the gentleness of spring, today.



MOTOKI!
SORRY FOR THE WAIT!
WOW, ALL OF YOUR BUTTONS ARE GONE.
is this a shoujo manga?
ARE YOU DONE ALREA... WHOA.
AH, SENPAI.
...SOMEHOW I FEEL LIKE I BECAME A GIRL.
aha
SAEKI-SENPAI'S PRECIOUS BUTTON.
I saved it.
.....
moves closer
It's hard being popular~
SURE SURE.
?
HERE.

WHEN I WAS THINKING THAT I WOULD GIVE THEM ALL TO OTHERS
AND WOULDN'T GIVE ONE TO MOTOKI, I FELT BAD, SO...
...WELL.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
OH YEAH, SENPAI, YOU'RE GOING TO SAY GOOD-BYE AT THE SHOP, RIGHT?
THAT'S RIGHT.
IT'LL BE LONELY, NOT BEING ABLE TO COSPLAY FOR A WHILE.
...IS THAT ALL?
HM...
.....
AH~ IT'LL BE LONELY SINCE I WON'T BE ABLE TO MEET WITH MOTOKI THAT OFTEN~!

SENPAI IS...
...OKAY.
NOT GOING TO UNI, BUT STRAIGHT TO WORK.
LET'S MEET IN OUR FREE TIME, OKAY?
IS THE ONE WHO MADE ME SAY THAT SUPPOSED TO GET EMBARRASSED?
I'll get flustered too
I'M SORRY.
blush
IT SEEMS HE'LL QUIT THE PART-TIME JOB.
men's cafe
Every-one~
Thank you for every-thing up till now!
I'll return to being a normal man from now on!!
don't quit, chigo-chan~
no


※ Real Name Kasukabe Tsuyoshi
※ He's wearing a wig
ROZA-SAN...

HE WAS POPULAR WITH THE CUSTOM-ERS.
IT WILL BE TOUGH WHEN HE QUITS...

I SEE.
...YOU KNOW,
YES.
MILK-CHAN, TOO, YOU'RE TAKING UNI EXAMS THIS YEAR SO YOU WON'T BE COMING HERE MUCH AS WELL HUH.
MILK

EH
UM... I...
Did I talk... about us going out...?
FUFU.
PLEASE TREASURE HIM. YOU KNOW, IT SEEMS
RYOUJI SERIOUS-LY LIKES YOU A LOT.
THAT KID WILL BE WORKING A PROPER JOB, AND YOU'LL BE TAKING EXAMS.
YOU
ARE THE LEAD ACTOR
YOU'LL BOTH BECOME BUSY BUT...

I HAVEN'T HEARD OF THIS —
WELL, I AM CHILDHOOD FRIENDS WITH RYOUJI AFTER ALL.
SO I'VE HEARD EVERYTHING ABOUT THE TWO OF YOU FROM HIM.

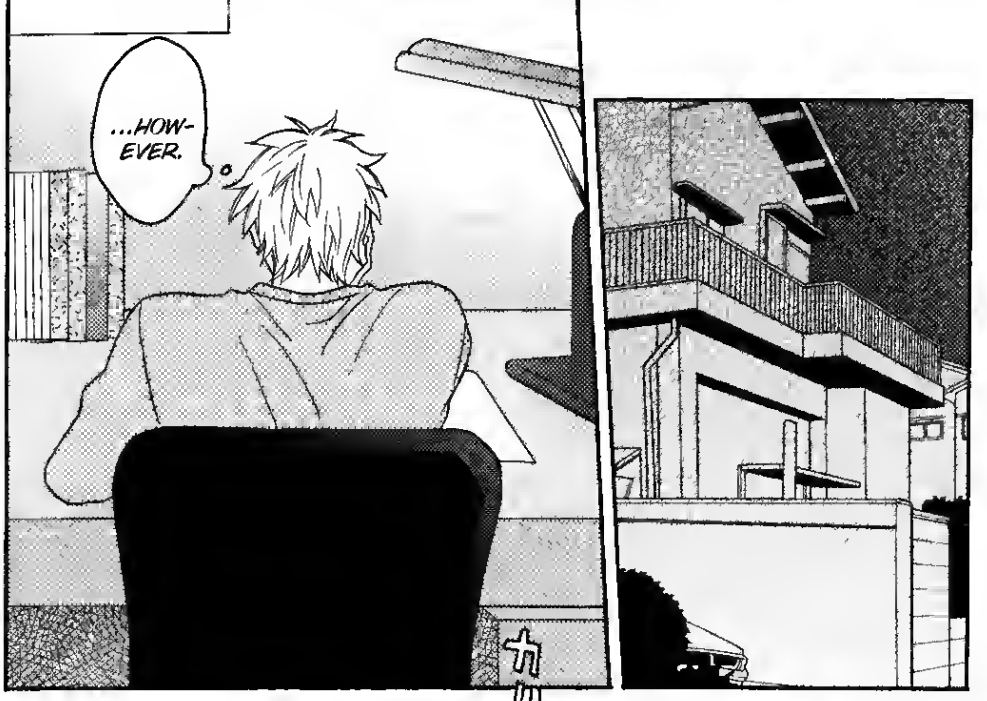
I'M REALLY BAD WITH WORDS, STILL...

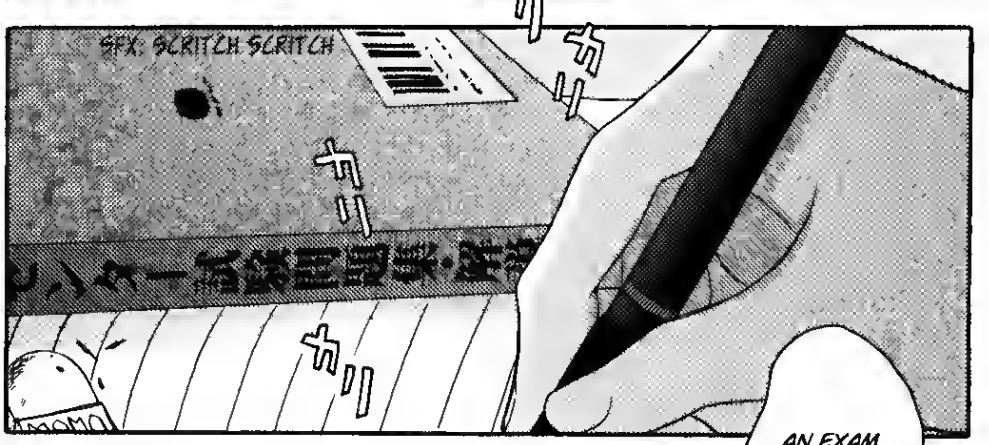
SOME-THING I ALREADY KNOW, WITHOUT BEING TOLD.

IS

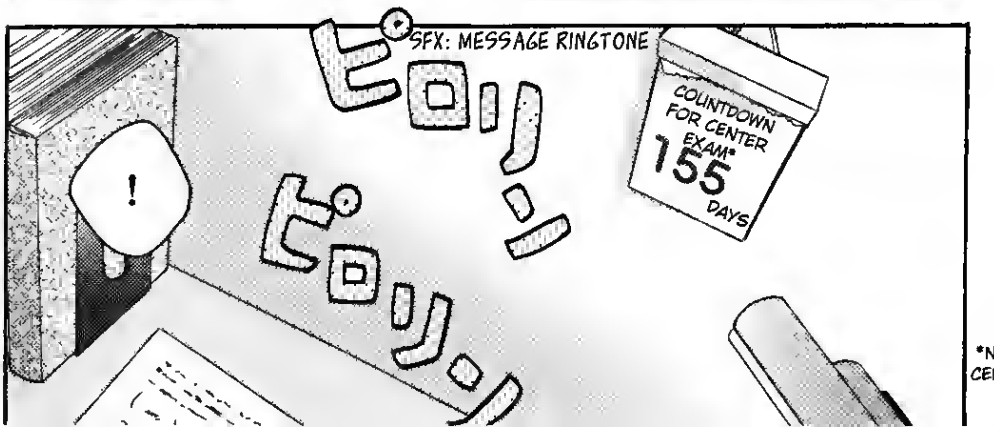
I CAN'T SAY THAT OURS WAS THE MOST SINCERE START. HOWEVER,

RIGHT NOW, I REALLY CHERISH SENPAI.





I ALSO THINK THAT FROM NOW ON, I WANT TO BE WITH HIM.



*NOTE: NATIONAL CENTER TEST FOR UNIVERSITY ADMISSIONS

SENPAI ...?
RECEIVING MAIL
...HUH...?
NO SUBJECT
From: SAEKI RYOUJI
LET'S BREAK UP. I'M SORRY, I CAN'T DO THIS ANYMORE.
返信
全返信
転送

WRONG SENT MAIL? NO, NO...
SOME KIND OF JOKE OR SOME-THING?
NO SUBJECT
From SAEKI RYOUJI
LET'S BREAK UP. I'M SORRY, I CAN'T DO THIS ANYMORE
AT ANY RATE, ISN'T THIS REALLY SUDDEN?
IS THIS A PRANK?
BEEP
THIS IS GETTING OUT OF HAND...
THE PHONE NUMBER YOU HAVE DIALLED
IS CURRENTLY NOT IN USE.
FOR A JOKE, THIS IS A BIT...
.....

SFX: MESSAGE RINGTONE

RING RING RING RING RING RING RING RING RING RING RING RING
...
302
JUST A WHILE AGO, I WASN'T ABLE TO GET IN TOUCH WITH RYOUJI. DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?
...
AH, MOTOKI-KUN? THIS IS SAKURA-BE..
...UM,
YES.
302
...
YESTERDAY, I SUDDENLY GOT A BREAK-UP TEXT... AND FROM THEN, I WASN'T ABLE TO CALL NOR MAIL HIM.
I WENT TO HIS APART-MENT, BUT IT SEEMS HE CANCELLED HIS CON-TRACT.
...I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING. NOTHING...
EH?
THAT... I WANT THE ANSWERS TO THAT MYSELF...
THIS IS THE WORST.
MOTOKI-KUN...

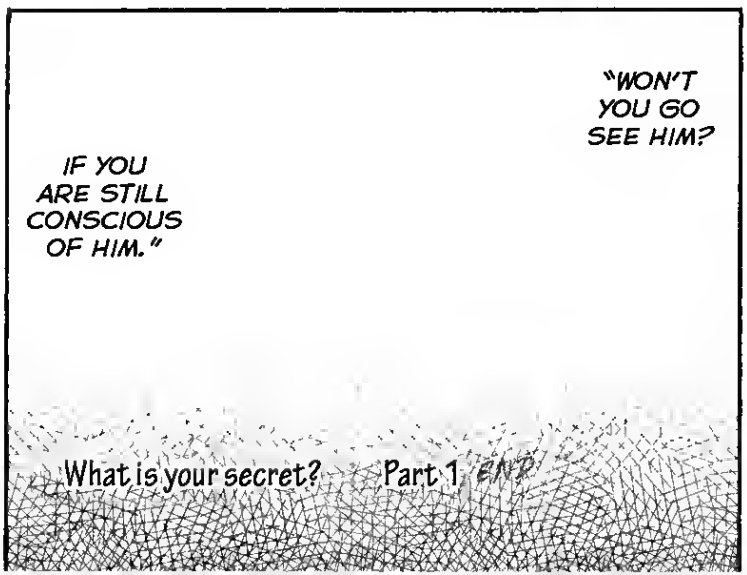
WITHOUT SAYING ANYTHING, JUST DISAPPEARING LIKE THAT.. YOU'RE...
SO SELFISH.
...N'T MESS WITH ME...
LIKE HELL IT'S ALRIGHT TO JUST GO LIKE "OKAY, GOOD-BYE" WITHOUT EVEN SAYING THE REASON.
I WAS CAPTURED BY A CRUEL PERSON.

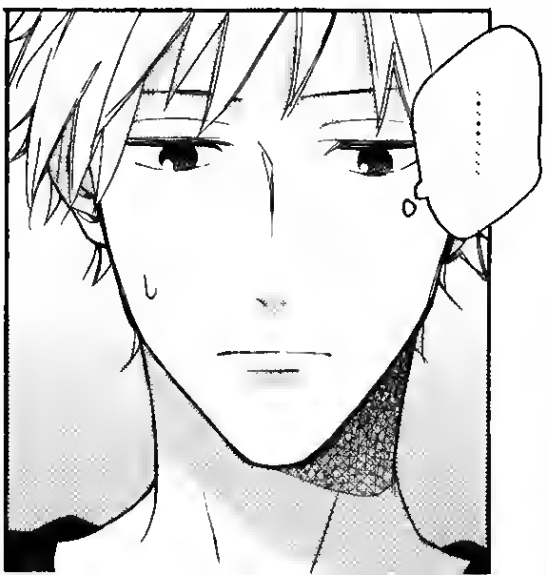
—UP UNTIL THEN WAS FROM THREE YEARS AGO

WITHOUT BEING ABLE TO GET IN TOUCH WITH SENPAI,
TIME CONTINUED TO PASS GRADUALLY.
KASUKABE-SAN HAS ALWAYS BEEN WORRIED FOR ME, BUT AS ALWAYS, SENPAI IS NOWHERE TO BE FOUND.
AND,
I HATED HOW THE ATMOSPHERE WOULD GET SOLEMN, SO I DON'T MEET WITH HIM MUCH.
V——RR
V——RR
INCOMING
KUSAKABE TSUYOSHI
……
"(phone)"

QUICK-LY...
...THIS IS QUITE SUDDEN, BUT DO YOU RECALL RYOUJI'S PARENTS' HOME?
...YES?
AH, MOTOKI-KUN!!
WHAT IS IT?
I WANT TO FORGET QUICK-LY.
IT WAS ALL ABOUT THAT, MY THREE YEARS...
HUH ...?
YOU PROBABLY DON'T KNOW A THING ABOUT IT, BUT...
rattle
rattle
rattle
rattle

"CAN YOU GO NOW? RYOUJI IS THERE."
...I'LL TELL YOU THE DETAILS WHEN YOU ARRIVE."
"RYOUJI GOT INTO AN ACCIDENT AND WAS HOSPITALIZED,
SO... AS AN AFTERSHOCK, HIS MEMORIES ARE AFFECTED..."
"IT SEEMS HE DOESN'T HAVE MEMORIES OF THE PAST THREE YEARS.
THE RYOUJI RIGHT NOW, IS THE RYOUJI WHO WAS YOUR LOVER BEFORE HE SUDDENLY DISAPPEARED."


"WON'T YOU GO SEE HIM?
IF YOU ARE STILL CONSCIOUS OF HIM."
What is your secret? Part 1 END


.....

T/N: Hello guys! I'm so sorry that this is so late hh;;
I have no excuses. You can kill me- :')
And- yay! Just the final chapter left (second part of this chapter)! Also, there's an extra for the first story, and it'll be over! \(uvu)/

Dame na Yatsu Hodo Kawaii
Chapter 4

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(I just made this! :3)